

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 31, 2005. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 33-36 are pending. Claims 8, 22, 29 and 31 have been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 33-36 have been added. Support for the added claims can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 33 and 34 are in independent form.

Claims 8, 22, 29 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,632,002 (*Hashimoto et al.*). Since those claims have been cancelled herein, this rejection is moot.

Independent Claim 34 recites, *inter alia*, (i) deciding whether or not received speech information includes a keyword corresponding to an external speech recognition apparatus, and (ii) if it is decided that the speech information includes a keyword corresponding to an external speech recognition apparatus, sending the speech information except for the keyword portion to the external speech recognition apparatus corresponding to the keyword and receiving the speech recognition result from that external speech recognition apparatus.

Independent Claim 33 recites, *inter alia*, similar features.

By virtue of the above features, a user can continuously utter a keyword for designating an external speech recognition apparatus and speech to be recognized. That is, the

user can easily designate a speech recognition apparatus and perform input of speech to be recognized.

Furthermore, because the keyword is removed from the speech information when the speech information is sent to an external speech recognition apparatus, communication efficiency is enhanced and unnecessary performance of speech recognition is avoided.

Hashimoto et al. relates to a speech recognition interface system that can specify an appropriate recognition vocabulary to be used for speech recognition processing of input speech, according to the application program to be used. However, nothing in *Hashimoto et al.* is understood to teach or suggest at least the above-recited features ((i) and (ii)) of Claim 34.

Thelen et al. relates to a distributed client-server speech recognition system, including a client station and a server station connected via a network. According to *Thelen et al.*, a speech recognition server may be selected based on spoken commands such as “select Philips” or “speak to Philips.” However, nothing in *Thelen et al.* is understood to teach or suggest at least the above-recited features ((i) and (ii)) of Claim 34, e.g., the sending of speech information except for the keyword portion.

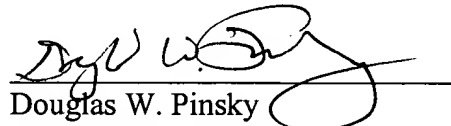
A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. These claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from independent Claim 34 and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas W. Pinsky", is written over a horizontal line.

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